

Dollytime

Rainbow Rascals



If you like working with bright colours then you'll have fun making Rainbow Rascals. I have named my dollies Violet, Poppy, Buttercup and Rose. They each measure 23cm (9in) and are easy to dress and undress so love to wear each other's clothes.

The colours used for each doll are based on the floral cotton fabric used for their skirts. Each skirt requires a piece of fabric measuring 42cm x 12cm (17in x 5in) and is very easy to make. If you don't want to stitch a fabric skirt then of course you can use any yarn colour combination you choose. Children will love the fun buttons used as decoration although buttons would not be suitable for dolls being given to babies or very young children.

All knitting is done with double knitting yarn (USA - worsted/Australia - 8 ply). Tension is not important but the knitted fabric should not be too loose otherwise the knitting will stretch and the stuffing will show through the stitches. If you know your knitting tends to be very loose then I suggest using needles one size smaller than specified. If on the other hand you are a very tight knitter you might consider using needles one size larger than specified.

Happy knitting

Wendy

<http://flutterbypatch.blogspot.com>

<http://dollytime.etsy.com>

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Materials

Pair of 3.25mm needles (US 3)

Flesh coloured DK yarn (double knitting yarn - USA would be light worsted/Australia - 8 ply).

I currently use Hayfield Bonus 'flesh tone' (catalogue number is 963). This is a British yarn so I don't know if it is available in other countries.

Pretty fabric - small remnants of patchwork cotton are ideal. Choose a selection of yarns to match or tone with the fabric (or choose fabric to match the yarn you already have)

Black or brown DK yarn - (eyes)

Dark pink embroidery floss - (mouth)

Toy filler

Ribbon 1cm wide in colour of choice - (to wear in hair).

Buttons of choice - (one for bag and two for waistcoat).

Elastic for skirt waistband - (I used 5mm wide)

Abbreviations

K - knit

P - purl

St - stitch

St-st - stocking stitch

K2tog - knit two stitches together to make one

* * - repeat the pattern within asterisks

I wanted my Rainbow Rascals to be bright and cheerful and only planned to make two dolls. But I couldn't decide which fabrics to use so chose the four shown below.



When I looked carefully I discovered each fabric contained several colours. I didn't use every colour but a good mix of them. The skirts are striped so I had to decide in which order to knit each colour (see my choice below).



Let's get started

As you are choosing yarn to match your own fabric I don't specifying which colours to use apart from flesh for the doll's head, hands and legs. The pattern is for the basic doll below.



Legs, body and head – knit as one piece starting at the feet.

Cast on 16 stitches in flesh

1 – 18. st-st starting with a knit row

Break off flesh and join colour for panties

19 – 20. st-st

Place these 16 stitches on a stitch holder.

Cast on 16 stitches in flesh and repeat rows 1 – 20 joining pantie colour at row 19

21. knit across row then replace the stitches from the stitch holder onto the empty needle and continue knitting in pantie colour. You should now have 32 stitches on one needle.

22 – 30. st-st

Break off pantie colour and join colour 1 for striping

31 – 32. st-st (colour 1)

Join colour 2 for striping (don't break off colour 1 but carry yarn up side of work)

33 – 34. st-st (colour 2)

35 – 46. Repeat rows 31 – 34 three more times to produce stripes.

Break off colours 1 and 2

47 – 68. st-st (flesh)

69. k2tog across row (16st)

70. purl

71. k2tog across row (8st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 8st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Don't draw up as you need to leave the top of the head open for stuffing.

Making up

Fold the knitted piece so that the seam will be on each inside leg and the centre back. Stitch the leg, back and head seams leaving top of head and bottom of each leg open for stuffing.

Stuff the body and head from the top and each leg from the bottom. Make sure the doll is well filled and plump and then draw up the top of the head to close. Gather the cast on edge at the bottom of each leg to close (gathering will be covered by the shoe).

Neck - Thread your needle with flesh coloured yarn and starting at the back seam, pick up alternate loops around the neck line (where flesh joins stripes – see below)



Work all the way round and then pull the gathering yarn to form a neck. Wrap the yarn once more around the neck and fasten off at the back.

Arms (make two)

Cast on 14 stitches in colour 1

1 – 2. st-st starting with a knit row

Join colour 2 but don't break off colour 1

3 – 4. st-st (colour 2)

5 – 12. repeat rows 1 – 4 twice more to produce stripes (carry yarn up side of work)

Break off colours 1 and 2 and join flesh

13 – 18. st-st (flesh)

19. k2tog across row (7st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 7st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up to close the hand and stitch seam to first stripe. Stitch arm to top. Stuff the arm to the top. With the top of the arm remaining open, position the arm on doll's shoulder and pin in place. Over sew arm to shoulder as shown below.



Shoes

Cast on 18 stitches in colour of choice

1 – 9 knit every row

10. k2tog across row (9st)

Cut the yarn leaving a 15cm (6in) tail and using a tapestry needle take the 9st from the knitting needle onto the tail. Draw up to close base of shoe and stitch seam to cast on edge. Fit shoe onto doll's foot and stitch to leg around top of shoe.

Features

Place coloured pins where eyes, nose and mouth will be. Don't position the eyes too high, they should be just above the centre line of the face. Use brown or black yarn to make three straight stitches, (one under the other) to create each eye. Make three straight stitches for the nose in flesh coloured yarn. The mouth is done using embroidery floss. Start at the bottom with two small stitches and then make two more stitches on each side to create a wide smile. Finally use red pencil crayon or beeswax crayon to give dolly rosie cheeks.



Hair

The colours I chose for each doll's hair helped me to choose names for them (Rose, Buttercup, Poppy and Violet). Rose will show you how her hair is fixed and styled.

Use 3 or 4 different tones of one colour and wrap round a book or piece of thick card that measures no less than 15cm (6in). Wrap round 10 times and then cut the loops at one end to release yarn from the book. Place the yarn across the top of the head as shown below left and back stitch in place as shown below right.



Work your way across the top of the head and down the back with more yarn bundles.



When sufficient yarn has been added, divide the hair to form a bunch on each side (below left). Tie each bunch as shown and securely stitch each tie to the head. Trim the yarn ends of each bunch. Straight stitches or loops can be added centre front for a fringe (bang) if desired. Finally stitch a pretty ribbon bow to each side of the head.



Skirt - Stripe the skirt in your chosen colours.

Cast on 63 stitches in colour chosen for hem

1 – 4. knit

5 – 18. st-st starting with a knit row

19. *k1, k2tog*, repeat across row (42st)

20 – 25. st-st

26. knit (this reverse stocking stitch row will form a ridge that will become the fold line for the elastic casing at the top of the skirt)

27. knit

28. purl

Cast off loosely

Making up

Fold over the top of the skirt on the reverse stocking stitch row (row 26) to form a casing for the elastic. You will probably have to stretch the cast off edge slightly. Pin in place. Now over sew picking up just the bottom loop on the cast off row (see below left).



Stitch the back seam leaving the casing open at each end for elastic. Thread 5mm elastic through the casing (above right). Adjust the elastic to fit the doll's waist and stitch the two ends firmly together. Close the top of the skirt. Press on the wrong side with a cool iron.

Waistcoat - knit every row (garter stitch)

Front - knit 2 pieces alike

Cast on 12 stitches in chosen colour

1 – 8. knit

9. cast off 3 stitches and knit remaining stitches (9st)

10 – 26. knit

Cast off

Back

Cast on 24 stitches in chosen colour

1 – 8. knit

9. cast off 3 stitches and knit remaining stitches (21st)

10. cast off 3 stitches and knit remaining stitches (18st)

11 – 26. knit

Cast off

Making up

With pieces positioned as shown below, stitch the side seams and then fold the waistcoat fronts inwards and at each corner stitch a tiny shoulder seam measuring approximately 5mm (0.25in)



Fold back the front corners of the waistcoat to create lapels and stitch in place using two pretty buttons as decoration.



Bag - On the front of each bag I stitched a pretty button as decoration. I used a tiny blue elephant, yellow duck, white doll and red car.

Cast on 10 stitches in colour of choice.

1 – 44. knit

Cast off

Fold bag in half and over-sew the side seams keeping your stitches small and close to the edge to avoid a lumpy seam. Turn the bag so that the stitched seams are on the inside. Stitch a little button to the front of the bag as decoration (optional). From yarn make a twisted cord slightly longer than the length required for a strap. Tie a knot at one end and then measure against the doll to find the required length of the cord before making a second knot (see below). Stitch the strap to each side of the bag.



Fabric skirt – *Whilst I know that customers who buy my patterns will be confident knitters, I'm not sure how many will be similarly confident with a needle and thread. For this reason I have described an easy way to make a fabric skirt. If you are skilled with a needle and thread and/or have a sewing machine then feel free to 'upgrade' my basic methods.*

You will need a length of cotton fabric measuring approximately 42cm x 12cm (17in x 5in). The finished length of the skirt should be approximately 7cm (3in). With this in mind, turn and press a hem along one long edge. Press a casing for the elastic along the opposite edge making sure it is wider than the elastic that you will be threading through. Before stitching the hem and casing ensure the two ends of the skirt are exactly the same length 7cm (3in). Stitch the hem and elastic casing by hand or machine

Thread a length of elastic through the casing and pin one end to the skirt so that the elastic won't pull out whilst you are adjusting the skirt to fit the doll (see below left).



When the elastic is adjusted, the skirt should be just the right size to easily fit around the doll's waist (not too tight or too loose). Pin the other end of the elastic to the skirt to hold it in place whilst you stitch the seam. Place together the two short edges (right sides facing – see above right). Stitch the skirt seam from the bottom to the top making sure the elastic is secured in place. Cut off the excess elastic. Press skirt.

What fun it is to try on so many new clothes!

